

REMARKS

Please cancel Claims 12-17 without prejudice. Claims 18-29 are pending.

The Examiner has indicated that Claims 18-29 are allowed. Applicants thank the Examiner for indicating the allowability of Claims 18-29.

102 and 103 Rejections

The instant Office Action states that Claims 12-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by Watanabe et al. ("Watanabe;" U.S. Patent No. 6,590,231).

The instant Office Action states that Claim 15 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Watanabe and Hofmann et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,707,098), that Claim 14 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Watanabe and Jin (U.S. Patent No. 6,286,226), and that Claims 16-17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Watanabe and Yano et al. (JP 04-097564).

Claims 12-17 are canceled herein, and so a discussion of the rejection of these claims is rendered moot at this time.

Conclusions

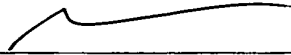
Applicants respectfully submit that there are no contested claims remaining, and that the instant application is now in condition for allowance.

The Examiner is invited to contact Applicants' undersigned representative if the Examiner believes such action would expedite resolution of the present Application.

Respectfully submitted,

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